

region so that said line intersects a first boundary point of said selected region and a second boundary point of said selected region;

checking whether said selected zone boundary point lies on said line between said first boundary point and said second boundary point; and

if said selected zone boundary point lies on said line between said first boundary point and said second boundary point, then defining said second determination to be that said selected zone boundary point is located within said selected region.

6. The method of claim 3 wherein said step E of making a second determination as to whether said selected zone boundary point is located within said selected region further comprises:

drawing a line of predetermined slope through said selected zone boundary point and through said selected region;

checking whether said line intersects said selected region at said selected zone boundary point; and

if said line intersects said selected region at said selected zone boundary point, then defining said first determination to be that said selected zone boundary point is located within said selected region.

7. The method of claim 3 wherein step D further comprises:

if said line does not intersect said selected region at said selected boundary point, then defining said first determination to be that said selected zone boundary point is not located within said selected region.

8. The method of claims 1 or 3 wherein each region of said plurality of non-overlapping geographic regions has a name, and wherein said step of identifying said selected region further comprises identifying said selected region by the name of said selected region.

9. The method of claims 2 or 7, wherein said first determination in said step D is that said selected zone boundary point is not located within said selected region, further comprising,

repeating said step C followed by said step D with another one of said plurality of non-overlapping geographic regions as said selected region until said first determination in said step D changes to be that said selected zone boundary point is located within said selected region.

10. In a geographic area divided into a plurality of non-overlapping geographic regions, each of said geographic regions being defined by a region boundary of a plurality of region boundary points, and a plurality of non-overlapping geographic zones, each of said geographic zones being defined by a zone boundary of a plurality of zone boundary points, a method for identifying the geographic region which contains a geographic zone, comprising the steps of:

- estimating said geographic zone with an estimated zone;
- selecting one of said plurality of non-overlapping geographic regions as a selected region;
- estimating said selected region with a selected estimated region;
- making a first determination as to whether said estimated zone is located within said selected estimated region;
- if said estimated zone is located within said selected estimated region, selecting one of said plurality of zone boundary points of said geographic zone as a selected zone boundary point;
- making a second determination as to whether said selected zone boundary point is located within said selected region by drawing a line of predetermined slope through said selected zone boundary point and through said selected region, and checking whether said line intersects said selected region at said selected zone boundary point, and if said line intersects said selected region at said selected zone boundary point, then defining said second determination to be that said selected zone boundary point is located within said selected region;
- if said second determination in said step F is that said selected zone boundary point is located within said selected region, then selecting another one of said plurality of zone boundary points as a selected zone boundary point and making a third determination as to

boundary points of said geographic zone as a selected zone boundary point;

F. making a second determination as to whether said selected zone boundary point is located within said selected region by drawing a line of predetermined slope through said selected zone boundary point and through said selected region so that said line intersects a first boundary point of said selected region and a second boundary point of said selected region,

checking whether said selected zone boundary point lies on said line between said first boundary point and said second boundary point, and

if said selected zone boundary point lies on said line between said first boundary point and said second boundary point, then defining said second determination to be that said selected zone boundary point is located within said selected region;

G. if said second determination in said step F is that said selected zone boundary point is located within said selected region, then repeating said step F with another one of said plurality of zone boundary points as a selected zone boundary point; and

H. if at least a predetermined percentage of said plurality of zone boundary points is located within said selected region, then identifying said selected region.

11. In a geographic area divided into a plurality of non-overlapping geographic regions, each of said geographic regions being defined by a region boundary of a plurality of region boundary points, and a plurality of non-overlapping geographic zones, each of said geographic zones being defined by a zone boundary of a plurality of zone boundary points, a method for identifying the geographic region which contains a geographic zone, comprising the steps of:

- estimating said geographic zone with an estimated zone;
- selecting one of said plurality of non-overlapping geographic regions as a selected region;
- estimating said selected region with a selected estimated region;
- making a first determination as to whether said estimated zone is located within said selected estimated region;
- if said estimated zone is located within said selected estimated region, selecting one of said plurality of zone boundary points of said geographic zone as a selected zone boundary point;
- making a second determination as to whether said selected zone boundary point is located within said selected region by drawing a line of predetermined slope through said selected zone boundary point and through said selected region, and checking whether said line intersects said selected region at said selected zone boundary point, and if said line intersects said selected region at said selected zone boundary point, then defining said second determination to be that said selected zone boundary point is located within said selected region;
- if said second determination in said step F is that said selected zone boundary point is located within said selected region, then selecting another one of said plurality of zone boundary points as a selected zone boundary point and making a third determination as to